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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
20-24 April 1992

AFRICA'S PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1-12 June 1992

INTRODUCTION

1. In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Brazil in June 1992, ECA has been carrying out promotional activities to enhance the understanding of member States of the issues involved in the UNCED and how they should be placed in the African context. The OAU Pan-African Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, which was held in Bamako, Mali from 23 to 30 January 1991, the meeting of 22 United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) member States [Inter-State Committee for Combating Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) and Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) countries] in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 13 to 15 February 1991 and the meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 4 to 8 March 1991, as well as meetings of the African Group at the third session of the UNCED Preparatory Committee, at Geneva, Switzerland from 12 August to 4 September 1991, provide the fora for ECA to carry out promotional activities.

2. From these meetings, which were held within the framework of the Kampala Agenda for Action Towards Sustainable Development in Africa, as well as the Bamako Commitment and the first African UNCED Preparatory Conference held in Cairo, Egypt from 11 to 16 July 1991, an African Common Position was adopted at the second Regional African Ministerial Preparatory Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 13 and 14 November 1991, outlining the specifics of an African Environment and Development Agenda.

3. It was clear from the discussions during these meetings and conferences that the major issues of concern to Africa revolved around resources, consistent policy instruments and the capacity for Africa to achieve sustainable development goals through the sound management of the natural environment. Hence the issues of poverty which frustrates both Africa's development efforts and the utilization of resources as well as environmental conservation emerged as an important issue. Furthermore, it was also clear that the issues of debt and resources flows impinge on environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources.

I. AN AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

4. The African preparatory process was predicated on the important linkage between poverty, the management of natural resources and development in Africa. From this perspective, the relationship between the structure and functioning of African economies and the role of orthodox stabilization and structural adjustment programmes in promoting environmental degradation becomes a matter of strategic concern. These concerns have been brought into focus by African Governments at all fora where the environment or related matters have been discussed. Indeed this underscores the determining role of the environment on economic performance.

5. Over the last two decades, therefore, environmental awareness has greatly increased in Africa through the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other agencies of the United Nations system. Important among these activities were those aimed at establishing environmental machineries in member States. The result has been that there is either a government ministry responsible for the environment or a department of government dealing with such matters. The increased involvement of regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Inter-State Committee for Combating Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), the Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), the Ministerial Conference on Desertification (COMIDES) and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) in matters related to environment and development are all examples of this awareness. Other initiatives in this direction include those of the African NGOs Environment Network (ANEN), the African Women Assembly on Sustainable Development and the Agenda on the Environment for the Youth, all of which have received the support of UNEP.

6. Despite these noteworthy developments, it has been unfortunate to note that environmental degradation in Africa has continued to plague the continent in crisis proportions. This has been demonstrated in the difficult situation which led to the adoption by the OAU of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) in 1986 which was later endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD). These are compelling illustrations of the fact that Africa needs to rethink with a view to redefine its development priorities and strategies that will take into consideration and stimulate environmental conservation nationally, regionally and in the context of the global environment movement. At the same time, African priorities must reflect African development interests and aspirations which must be respected by international community.

7. In the spirit of these concerns, a review of the environmental aspirations enshrined in the Monrovia Declaration (1979) on social and economic development of Africa, the Lagos Plan of Action (1980) as well as APPER (1986), UN-PAAERD (1986) and AMCEN (1985) which was a UNEP initiative and supported by ECA and the OAU was undertaken during the preparatory process. Out of the AMCEN meeting came the Cairo Programme which reflected the environmental aspirations enshrined in the Monrovia Declaration of 1979 and the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos.

8. These formed the basis for ECA's participation in the implementation of the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development which gave birth to the Kampala Agenda of Action Towards Sustainable Development in Africa (1989) and the Bamako Commitment on Environment and Sustainable Development. Within this context, an African Environment and Development Agenda (AEDA) laying down the framework for environmental action, has emerged constituting an integral part of the African Common Position on Environment and Development.

9. The African Environment and Development Agenda emphasizes that environmental management is not, and should not, be addressed as a sectoral issue. Managing the environment is an integral part of the development process, which in itself demands a multifaceted approach. Environmental action, as part and parcel of the national, regional and global social and economic developmental process, while catering for global concerns, must be inward-looking in the first place. In other words, Africa's political and economic independence must be the major interest to be defended in all areas. These include, among others, the negotiations on the development and transfer of science and technology, as well as all forms of technical assistance and international economic relations.

10. Africa's approach to UNCED-1992 is, therefore, being focused on three broad issues:

(a) The imperative of popular participation and full democratization at all levels of governance and the decision-making process relating to environmental management and development;

(b) The economic empowerment of the region as a whole, of individual countries, especially women and grassroots groups; this is required for dealing effectively with mass and growing poverty, rising global inequalities and human resources development; and

(c) The necessity for the effective coordination of environment and development programmes and policies at the subregional and regional levels.

11. From these basic orientations, Africa's priority concerns relating to environment and development emerge in the areas identified below. These are the problems of:

(a) Poverty and population dynamics;

(b) Food security;

(c) Energy security;

(d) Sustainability of economic growth and employment;

(e) Security and stability of financial resources;

(f) Improvement of quality of life and habitat; and

(g) Weak analytical and managerial capacity in the area of environment and development.

12. The elements of priority concerns of the African Environment and Development Agenda are those dealing with the following:

(a) Food self-sufficiency and food security;

(b) Efficient and equitable use of water resources;

(c) Management of marine and coastal resources;

(d) Securing greater energy self-sufficiency;

(e) Managing demographic change and population pressures;

(f) Development of human settlement, planning and management;

(g) Optimizing industrial production and preventing pollution;

(h) Management of bio-diversity and bio-technology;

(i) Mitigating global warming and climate change;

(j) Protection and rehabilitation of tropical forests;

(k) Reversing desertification in Africa;

(l) Environmentally sound development of mineral resources;

(m) Popular participation and enhancement of the role of NGOs, youth and women;

(n) Development of environmental legislation;

(o) Capacity-building, environmental education, training and public awareness;

(p) Management of solid and hazardous wastes;

(q) Additional resources for environmental rehabilitation;

(r) Poverty eradication;

(s) Drought monitoring;

(t) Development of science and technology;

(u) Health implications of development;

(v) Prevention of natural disasters and reconstruction and rehabilitation of the effects of those that have already occurred;

(w) Promoting environment and development in land-locked countries; and

(x) Mitigating the impacts of refugees on environment and development.

13. These issues contained in the African Environment and Development Agenda imply that Africa's perspectives of the UNCED issues have to be underscored by the region's special environmental, social and economic problems as expressed in the African Common Position on Environment and Development. When these are added to the crucial problems of poverty at the national and regional levels which have been exacerbated by the deteriorating global economic inequalities, desertification, external debt, failed SAPs, very low human resource development and technology, it becomes clear that the questions of environmental protection in the North are not identical with environmental change in the South. In particular, there are issues of national and global environmental importance which indicate that the political environment in Africa has to change effectively in order to ensure durable solutions to environmental issues.

14. The African Environment and Development Agenda should, therefore, orient what actions governments and development agencies including those of the United Nations system must undertake in Africa in order to achieve environment and sound sustainable development. Member States must act as a team, each working out how best its capabilities can contribute to the package of national, subregional and regional development programmes with strong environment components, in their different initiatives. This is the difficult challenge facing the United Nations, Africa and its institutions.

15. Planning for environment and sustainable development in the 1990s and beyond will of necessity call for considerable resource requirements and strong institutional and technological support. Ideally, all support for additional resources and technology transfer and adaptation would enable Africa to play an effective role in global, regional and national programmes.

16. It will be recalled that Africa, in its AMCEN programmes, stressed action among African countries and this thrust for African inter-dependence on environmental management is still valid. Africa must, therefore, respond to environmental management responsibilities both within the national, regional, and the global context. In all this, ECA, UNEP, other organs of the United Nations system and all development agencies working in Africa must continue to fulfil their mandates on social and economic development, duly integrating environmental concerns. In this way, they will be assisting Africa in demonstrating its independence and its inter-dependence in developing the region.

17. It is on the basis of this approach that Africa can participate actively in the dialogue on global approaches, while making its priorities clear and practicable. Within the framework of the regional commitment to national and collective self-reliant development, the priorities and strategies adopted by member States should facilitate global environmental management and the internal flow of resources for this purpose, with a common position.

II. AN AFRICAN COMMON POSITION ON ITS ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

18. To put the African Environment and Development Agenda into political focus, African Governments represented by African ministers and designated senior officials responsible for environment and development as well as NGOs have been meeting to develop and consolidate the African Common Position on the African Environment and Development Agenda. The first Ministerial Regional Preparatory Conference for UNCED,

which was held in Cairo from 11 to 16 July 1991, did most of the work on the issues contained in the African Common Position on its Environment and Development Agenda. The second Ministerial Conference on the subject was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 11 to 14 November 1991 where the Common Position was adopted. The principal theme through both conferences was the recognition that humanity has a common heritage that is ecologically interdependent and that for a sustainable common future we must individually and collectively protect this common heritage.

19. The African Common Position responded to the spirit of African integration and inter-dependence as reflected in the Charter of the OAU, the existing treaties of African subregional economic groupings and in the recent Treaty establishing the African Economic Community which was signed in Abuja, Nigeria in June 1991. This political dimension will accelerate the dialogue on the links between environmental and trade policies. The dialogue should focus, inter alia, on the role of international trade in promoting sustainable development through the application of trade rules and instruments to environmental measures.

20. While aiming at achieving Africa's sustainable development goals through the environment, the African Environment and Development Agenda was concerned to enhance global action for environment and sustainability in social and economic development. The Agenda should strive to interact with the global environmental follow-up as of now into the UNCED-1992. The crisis that abounds in the region must serve as warning and cause for immediate remedial action, both at the regional level and the global follow-up to UNCED-1992. This will require serious and determined shifts in policy orientation and decision-making in environmental management as an integral part of development planning on the part of African countries on the one hand, and greater North-South and South-South cooperation on the other.

21. The importance of mobilizing all the global resources for environment and development programme activities has been greatly emphasized. It has also been emphasized that one of the surest way of doing this is to democratize decision-making in development activities. NGOs and the independent sector, including trade unions, business and similar groups must be encouraged to get involved in this process.

22. This will require that all United Nations agencies, particularly those operating in Africa and with a specific African mandate to coordinate their activities and work together to assist member States in dealing with these environmental problems in several ways. These should hinge on arrangements for coordination in which UNEP and all the other United Nations agencies working in Africa, will continue to associate ECA, intimately, in their assistance to member States as ECA is also the United Nations agency with overall mandate for ensuring sustainable social and economic development in Africa. To cope with these actions, the Commission is equipped with technical divisions that correspond to nearly all departments of government. It has also recently created a Multi-disciplinary Regional Advisory Group (MRAG) charged with the responsibility of providing required services of this nature to member States.

III. THE ROLES OF AFRICAN REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE UNCED PROCESS, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND UNCED AGENDA 21

23. It will be recalled that, in keeping with United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228 which, inter alia, requested the regional commissions to organize regional preparatory conferences, ECA resolution 712 (XXVI) of May 1991 and OAU resolution CM/Res.1361 (LIV) of June 1991 requesting the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of the OAU to jointly prepare Africa for UNCED-1992, a number of significant steps have been taken in this direction.

24. Firstly, the OAU, in close collaboration with ECA, is running the African Year of the Environment. Activities are being carried out at the national level through national organizational committees. This is a

significant indication of the level of environmental awareness that is gathering momentum in the region. It is also an important prelude and contribution to the preparations for UNCED-1992.

25. Secondly, a number of activities to enhance the understanding of the issues and how they should be placed in the African context have been carried out. These have included the OAU Pan-African Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development which was held in Bamako, Mali from 23 to 30 January 1991, the meeting of 22 UNSO member States (CILSS, IGADD and SADCC countries) in Ouagadougou from 13 to 15 February 1991 and the meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment in Addis Ababa from 4 to 8 March 1991.

26. Thirdly, the activities mentioned above contributed inputs to the African UNCED Preparatory Conference which was held in Cairo, Egypt from 11 to 16 July 1991. The outcome of this Conference was the Cairo Common Position on the African Environment and Development Agenda. This formed the basis for discussions and negotiations during the third session of the UNCED Preparatory Committee at Geneva from 12 August to 4 September 1991.

27. Fourthly, from the experience during that Preparatory Committee, African Governments decided to consolidate their Cairo Common Position as the African Common Position on their Environment and Development Agenda. This consolidated African Common Position was considered and adopted at the second African Regional Ministerial Conference held in Abidjan on 13 and 14 November 1991.

28. In adopting the consolidated Common Position on the African Environment and Development Agenda for UNCED and beyond, African Governments requested ECA to develop detailed programme activities which should form the framework of negotiations during the UNCED process for Agenda 21. They also called on ECA, OAU and the ADB, in collaboration with agencies of the United Nations system to support African countries in the negotiation process for all the relevant UNCED conventions and discussions during the fourth session of the UNCED Preparatory Committee to be held in New York in March 1992.

29. The UNCED process is a crucible to test the viability of existing institutions the execution of their mandates on development particularly through environmental management. It is imperative that national governments as well as all those institutions that have the mandate to assist governments in achieving sustained social and economic development. The three institutions, in this regard, complement themselves: ADB representing a strong force for the mobilization of resources for programme implementation; ECA catering for the technical programme conceptualization, monitoring of implementation of activities relating to environment and sustainable social and economic development; and the OAU ensuring a favourable regional political enabling environment for the implementation of the African Environment and Development Agenda within the framework of the African Common Position.

30. Under these circumstances, therefore, African financial institutions such as the ADB must take on the added responsibility of resource mobilization for African Governments on a non-investment basis. One sees the Bank playing the role of a focal point for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) which was set up by the rich countries and is being administered by the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP. The Bank might also consider sponsoring African Governments to the membership of GEF instead of allowing them to be sponsored bilaterally. The Bank itself might think of setting up and environment fund for African Governments to assist in the strengthening of environmental management mechanisms.

31. The United Nations system, on its side, needs to have a re-thinking on the matter. This is important not only because the United Nations system should be seen to be at the centre of action, but also because, inevitably, member States will continue to pressurize the system for technical assistance. ECA as the lead agency on social and economic development must strengthen its capacity to deliver not only to member States but also to carry out the needed inter-institutional activities and assistance in national, subregional and regional capacity-building in the area of environment and development.

32. The OAU is faced with the new challenge of the economic integration of the region through strong political action. This is embodied in the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The integration of environment into development planning must not be an ad hoc issue. Recent events have clearly shown the urgency for political action in environment and development. The promotion of the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and the Control and Management of the Movement of such Wastes Generated in Africa provides the focus of action on pollution control in the region. It must also be the thrust of the African position on negotiations for activities in UNCED Agenda 21 relating to the management of wastes and hazardous materials. Until the OAU can throw its weight heavily in the UNCED negotiation process, the road ahead is difficult.

33. ECA, other sister agencies of the United Nations system and the ADB must give the OAU the support it needs in the formulation and implementation of the environmental components of the Treaty establishing the Community.

34. These are the challenges that African Governments must address. They must work out a clear definition of collective and individual roles and responsibilities for immediate and sustained action in this exercise. This includes active participation in all UNCED negotiations, UNCED Preparatory Committee meetings as well as the main Conference itself in Brazil, at the level of Heads of State and Government.

IV. CONCLUSION

35. The response to Africa's environment and development challenges for UNCED, the 1990s and beyond will therefore require concrete action programmes based on the strengthening of institutional and manpower capacity to meet those challenges. In other words, member States must take it upon themselves to develop programmes of action which will stimulate the appropriate response from national, regional and global institutions in terms of technical cooperation and the mobilization of resources.

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REPORT ON AFRICA'S PREPARATIONS AND PARTICIPATION IN UNCTAD VIII

INTRODUCTION

1. It is worth recalling that ECA's policy organs have on many occasions called upon the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with others, particularly the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to assist and ensure effective African participation in multilateral negotiations. Part of the response to this is reflected in ECA's work programme, programme element 3.1.

2. This brief secretariat note on Africa's preparations and participation in the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII) highlights various stages and levels of the African negotiating process. Somehow, the analysis is constrained by two factors: first, the rescheduling of the time for holding UNCTAD VIII in Colombia, February 1992; second, conclusions of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTNs) not being available.

3. The note highlights the main salient features of the preparations pertaining to Africa's participation up to the holding of the seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Teheran, Iran in November 1991. Implications on the African economies, on the other hand, of the results of UNCTAD VIII conclusions will only be fruitfully assessed at the end of the session and the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. However, in the case of the latter, certain areas like loss of already acquired benefits are a strong possibility where the African negotiators may have been unable to effectively defend their interests. The situation with the former would have been unnecessary had the scheduling of UNCTAD VIII not been postponed from the fourth quarter of 1991 to February 1992. Negotiations for the former started in 1986 and have dragged on for more than five years. The main cause for this long delay was disagreement between the United States of America on the one hand and the European Economic Community on the other over the question of agriculture subsidies.

4. It is equally important to refer to the significance of the results of the special session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade, especially its "Strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990s and Beyond" (E/ECA/TRADE/89/25/Rev.5) as inputs into their negotiating strategy. It calls for the redefinition and strengthening of the institutional framework for policy dialogue and negotiations between African countries, on the one hand, and with the developed and other developing countries on the other within the context of UNCTAD and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to mention but a few such forums.

5. Additionally, the eleventh Conference of African Ministers of Trade, meeting in Addis Ababa in April 1991, paragraph 41 of their report (doc. E/ECA/TRADE/91/12) deferred "consideration of Africa's position on issues to be negotiated within the Group of 77 and at UNCTAD VIII" because of the lack of necessary additional background documentation both by the UNCTAD secretariat and the G.77 Preparatory Committee. Another compelling reason was to enable the African region to include in its strategy developments that were likely to take place nearer to the actual holding of the seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and the rescheduled new dates of UNCTAD VIII. However, there were difficulties in finding a country to host the Ministerial Meeting.

I. PROGRESS OF AFRICAN PARTICIPATION

6. The African Ministers Responsible for Trade Preparatory to UNCTAD VIII met in Lusaka, Zambia, from 13 to 19 April 1991, preceded by a meeting of their Intergovernmental Group of Experts (13-18 April). That meeting adopted the Lusaka Declaration (E/ECA/CM.18/CRP.4) based in part on information provided in background documents by ECA and other secretariats, the African Group in Geneva, the Preparatory Committee of G.77 and the report of the eleventh Conference of African Ministers of Trade. Other inputs into the Declaration were taken from statements delivered during the inaugural ceremony by the Zambian Prime Minister on behalf of the Zambian Head of State and Government, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of the OAU.

7. The Lusaka Declaration reiterated a number of realities, not least of which was that the existence of a hostile socio-economic and political environment was not conducive to rapid economic growth and development. It therefore called for mutually reinforcing efforts with the international community if African countries were to meet the development challenges of the 1990s and beyond. In other words, Africa's own efforts needed to be supported by those of the international community.

8. Consequently, the Lusaka Declaration was adopted as an African negotiating strategy in the hope that concrete action-oriented results would emerge from UNCTAD VIII, considering that its Trade and Development Board, by resolution 45/203 of 21 December 1990, had adopted a development-oriented agenda with a view to contributing to the objective of furthering economic growth and development of developing countries. Thus, the second part of the Declaration focused on UNCTAD VIII's substantive agenda items: commodities; resources for development; international trade; technology transfer and development; services; and sustainable development emphasizing Africa's observed interest. Along with the above, was concern with the issue of the least developed countries (LDCs). Perhaps it is important to underline Africa's objective for its inclusion, one reason being to keep reminding the international community of the need to implement fully and expeditiously the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s adopted by the United Nations Conference on LDCs in Paris in September 1990.

9. The third part of Lusaka Declaration focused on the issue of economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC). This was primarily intended for consideration by the seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, notwithstanding that it was not on UNCTAD VIII's agenda. The fact that the third world was expected to meet after almost four years and that stronger economic blocs were emerging, including the signing of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, was reason enough for the issue of ECDC to be revisited in order to take stock of needed future course of action.

10. The fourth part dealt with a decision whereby the meeting mandated the African Group in Geneva, in the context of the preparatory work of G.77, to consult with the two other regional groups (Asia and Latin America) in order to harmonize regional texts with a view to advancing the work of the Ministerial Meeting. The African Ambassadors were then required to report the outcome of those consultations to the African Ministers of Trade during the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77.

11. The next stage, preparation of a comparative text based on the submissions of the three regional ministerial meetings (Lusaka for Africa; Pyongyong for Asia; and Caracas for Latin America), was done by G.77 in Geneva. It was from this that the Ministerial Meeting of the group of 77 was presented with a G.77 "Harmonized text" from which emerged the Teheran Final Documents (doc. 77/MM/(VII)/1).

II. AFRICA'S PARTICIPATION AND DEFENCE OF INTEREST

12. Pursuant to the Lusaka decisions, the Chairman of the African Ambassadors in Geneva reported subsequently on the meeting of African Ministers of Trade to the Ministerial Meeting of the group of 77 in Teheran. The report highlighted the extent to which the African regional positions had been reconciled with those of others within the G.77. The Ministers were also duly informed on issues not resolved with suggestions as to the main constraints. The harmonized text had retained many of the concerns contained in the Lusaka Declaration. It is nonetheless important to underscore the fact that reformulation of certain African proposals had become necessary in order to accommodate the views of other regions by virtue of requiring a consensus. In certain instances, reformulation led to a definite improvement on Africa's regional intended objective(s).

13. Take as one illustration, in the area of commodities, para. 36 on "compensatory financing" in the Lusaka Declaration benefitted from such an addition. The version reads as follows: "These questions, as well as actions taken or required in the area of compensatory financing of export earnings shortfalls, should be kept under constant review in UNCTAD. The UNCTAD secretariat should follow developments in

various compensatory financing schemes and their implications for the development of developing countries." Unlike the above, the original text in the Lusaka Declaration had not provided for specific follow-up mechanism. The text retained the need to guard against the eventuality of injurious action, detrimental to the interests of commodity-dependent economies, the majority of which are in Africa.

14. Other modifications in the final text merely extended the African proposals by covering a wider group of the G.77. That was what became of the decision taken in regard to "diversification, processing, marketing and distribution, including transportation". The submission called for national policy coordination and transparency, stressing the importance of a favourable external environment and the need for enhancing and promoting cooperation between commodity producers and consumers.

15. The issue of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations deserves special mention in the context of development of international trade. The eleventh Conference of African Ministers of Trade had already expressed dissatisfaction. It drew attention to the slow progress and to the extent to which the region seemed to have been ignored and marginalized, especially in Brussels, in December 1990. Furthermore, during the Conference, the Ministers had the opportunity to discuss this issue in greater detail before adopting a resolution (annex III of document E/ECA/TRADE/91/12) which requested the OAU Summit in Abuja in June 1991 to take a political stand and to impress upon the industrialized countries and GATT itself that Africa's interests could not continue to be marginalized.

16. At least two illustrative areas need highlighting from the point of view of implications: first, safeguarding existing preferences as in the case of the Lome Convention; second, the difficulty of arriving at positions when the conclusions of the negotiations are yet to be ended. In other words, the analysis borders on the age-old unresolved question of the egg before the chicken or vice versa.

17. Convening the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 went through a difficult patch in terms of arriving at a consensus on how to present the issue of the Uruguay Round. An attempt had been made to adopted a "declaration" highlighting areas, most of which are in the Lusaka Declaration. Some 11 paragraphs in the "Ministerial Declaration on the Uruguay Round of MTNs" (doc. 77/MM(VII)/2) were eventually adopted at the insistence of the African group. The opposing opinion, mostly by the Latin Americans, advocated the deletion of paragraphs 5 to 10. From the African point of view deletion of these paragraphs was to render the Declaration of little substance, since those paragraphs had the meat rather than teeth for African exporters.

18. Paragraph 5, for instance, called for developing countries to be compensated for any erosion of preferential margins as a result of trade liberalization in the Uruguay Round for preferences granted by developed countries. Similarly, paragraph 6 talked of results in agriculture to provide for (a) increased access to markets, substantial reduction in internal support and export subsidies and elimination of all derogations deriving from waivers and protocols of accession of developed countries; (b) provision of flexibility to developing countries in the use of measures relating to internal support programmes, border measures and export subsidies to allow them to develop their agricultural sectors; and (c) transitional facilities to offset the burden arising from increases in food prices, particularly for the net food-importing developing countries.

19. These two illustrative paragraphs are core and underline some of Africa's main preoccupations, especially the need to maintain the "droit acqui"; for instance, STABEX benefits existing within the Lome Convention IV and in the generalized system of preferences (GSP). It is therefore understandable why the African group resisted the deletion of paragraphs 5 to 10. Had they succumbed, they would have greatly undermined all that they had achieved up to the decision of the OAU Summit and in the "Harmonized text". Secondly, acceptance of the deletion would have taken from Africa the hope pinned in the solidarity of the G.77.

20. In the end, after a long protracted debate the Ministerial Meeting resolved to maintain all 11 paragraphs. As a compromise therefore, it was decided that the Declaration not form part of the Teheran Final Documents. On the contrary, the meeting decided to convey the Declaration on the Uruguay Round to the Director-General of GATT and to the Government of Uruguay for appropriate action. In other words, Africa's strategy for necessary political leverage had been achieved up to that point. Secondly, the importance of not eroding the required privileges had been spotlighted and the other developing countries were therefore presumed to have supported or not opposed the African submission.

21. It is evident from the above brief account that defense of Africa's positions of this type would have been much stronger and better, if only the composition of each delegation had been consistent through all those stages (Geneva, Lusaka and Teheran) and had a larger number of delegations been led by their respective ministers, notwithstanding the fact that Africa's showing in Teheran in terms of ministerial representation was four times more than that for the Latin American region.

22. It is difficult to deal with implications in the light of what is stated in some of the preceding paragraphs. There is also the question of assessing the extent to which previous UNCTAD session decisions have been implemented, especially their effect on the African economies as most have a relatively long gestation period.

23. The question of implications on Africa's future prospects in the short and long term is not only of what will be debated at UNCTAD VIII but also how those decisions will be implemented and when. Probably the most likely yardsticks could include the extent to which concrete action will be taken and implemented as opposed to previous experience. There will also be the issue of how the envisaged new structure of UNCTAD itself will be able to overcome the impediments in the way of facilitating economic growth and development. Perhaps the session will also be judged on whether developing countries and Africa in particular have the real bargaining power to ensure that principal regional and national interests are no longer ignored or marginalized.

24. Implications of UNCTAD VIII as a forum of transparent debate and place for international community-oriented action go beyond some of the issues on its provisional agenda. They encompass UNCTAD's future role as a forum for democratic and open international discussion and consensus. Perhaps most important of all, words being coupled with concrete action thereafter. There is also the working structure of the Group of 77 and how it will relate to the UNCTAD structure in future. UNCTAD discussions have hitherto been characterized by group distinctions (Groups B, D, G.77 and China): Group D (countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union by virtue of adherence to central planning). This Group is to all intents and purposes fast disintegrating; Group B (consisting of the developed industrialized countries) seems destined to absorb some of those falling out of Group D; the G.77 (consisting of some 128 developing countries) is unlikely to be joined by any of former Group D countries. It is however showing signs, among the more developed among them, of loosening the concept of greater solidarity in place of flexibility. In other words, the latter want to be allowed out of the original straightjacket.

25. It can therefore be presumed that the era of clear confrontation among adversaries could in future be considerably reduced but not eliminated. This change of heart on the part of G.77, which became apparent during the Ministerial Meeting, could not have been any more evident than the fact that non-G.77 countries (Japan, Australia, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey) participated as "special invitees" for the first time in the long history of G.77 meetings.

26. Therefore until the precise results of UNCTAD VIII are available, any assessment of likely implications from the African standpoint, at the time of issuing this brief, is bound to be highly suspect. Available indications are such that UNCTAD VIII will take place at a rather complex and challenging time. Ample evidence of changes in approaches to both national and international policy already manifest

themselves. These are changes that are likely to be either positive or negative. The latter are fraught with potential dangers, while the former can be said to be pregnant with opportunities for promoting international development.

27. Many of the issues highlighted in the Teheran Declaration and its Substantial Platform of the Group of 77 for International Cooperation are quite familiar. Needless to say, the easing of East-West military and political tensions, transformation taking place in Central and Eastern Europe including the Soviet Union, the emergence of large economic spaces, especially among the industrialized countries, are matters of particular concern to Africa's future economic prospects. Over and above the questions of structural changes in the world economy and the fact that technological progress is forcing changing patterns of production and demand thereof are matters whose implications can not be taken lightly.

28. A trend is already developing among certain G.77 members seeking great flexibility and freedom as to how to defend their respective national interests. These countries no longer believe that they should be rigidly tied to the G.77 position in the name of solidarity. They wish to feel free to associate with any other country or group of countries outside G.77 that have a common objective with them. For example, Argentina would like to be free to associate with New Zealand, if need be, in championing the issue of trade in meat, even at the expense of, say, Botswana or Kenya as members of G.77.

29. However, it can not be disputed that African countries as principal primary commodity exporters will be adversely affected by such changes in the G.77 solidarity strategy. For instance, selected leather-producing African countries would be unable, on their own to make any significant impression on the Japanese leather market or outlook without the support of the G.77 as a whole, perhaps using the UNCTAD forum, especially UNCTAD's Committee on Commodities. On the contrary, the African case would be taken quite seriously were it to have the support of the G.77, in spite of certain modifications. The example of the Ministerial Declaration on the Uruguay Round of MTNs referred to above is a case in point.

30. Similarly, Brazil's solidarity with the cocoa-producing countries and its support of the International Cocoa Agreement is essential. This is notwithstanding the fact that Brazil earns more from exporting a ton of orange juice than it does from exporting a similar quantity of cocoa.

31. The reality of this has never been so evident as it is now in view of the trends emerging, trends that point in the direction of increased globalization and inter-dependence of the world economy. So why can the G.77, and Africa in particular, not do the same in their own interest? And more so since key sectors covering trade flows in goods and services and developments in the areas of money, finance, debt and commodities have been more closely integrated. Some of the implications of these phenomena for fragile economies would include the danger of erosion of the capacity of governments in determining the course of events. At the same time, the tightening of constraints on their scope as autonomous policy-making, especially in Africa, is a trend that needs watching.

32. The extent of some of the implications of both these major events cannot be properly quantified at this time for reasons already stated. It is however important to underline two other significant aspects: first, Africa has every justification, in the light of the Lusaka Declaration, to consider the solidarity of the Group of 77 as a source of strength, deriving essentially from a shared perception of common problems, many of which have always transcended economic and political diversity, more so because the Teheran Declaration incorporated most of the Lusaka Declaration proposals, in addition to extolling the Group of 77 to work together and remain a political instrument in articulating common problems. The action vindicates a need for a strategy that could provide strong bargaining power for the achievement of collectively defined goals and objectives among developing countries on the basis of an agreed negotiating agenda with the developed countries.

33. Needless to say, this preliminary report constitutes part I of the issues raised with regard to Africa's preparations and participation in UNCTAD VIII. Part II on the other hand, will be issued as an addendum to this report after UNCTAD VIII, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in February 1992. The addendum will give an update of the results and decisions reached at UNCTAD VIII, taking as its point of departure many of Africa's concerns reflected in the Lusaka Declaration and as subsequently incorporated in the Teheran Final Documents.

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Twenty-seventh session of the Commission/ eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

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REPORT ON AFRICA'S PREPARATIONS AND PARTICIPATION IN UNCTAD VIII

INTRODUCTION

1. This report is to be read in tandem with and as addendum to document E/ECA/CM.18/14 entitled "Report on Africa's preparations and participation in UNCTAD VIII". It highlights the broad policy orientations and discussions on the substantive agenda items of UNCTAD VIII. Observations from an African standpoint on each of the selected areas are included at the end. The assessment takes as point of departure the Lusaka Declaration [AF/MM/77(VII)/1] and the Teheran Final Document (TD/356)) of the Group of 77, it being assumed that both documents had been adopted with Cartagena de Indias as their target point.

2. The background leading to the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII), held is Cartagena de Indias, Colombia from 8 to 25 February 1992, is described in part in the earlier document (E/ECA/CM.18/14). Africa was fairly well-represented with about 18 delegations headed by Ministers. Assessment of the outcome of UNCTAD VIII is somehow constrained by new elements, in particular the observed departure from previous practice in the negotiation strategies. Important to note also was the absence of the usual resolutions. Some of the decisions taken at the session were predicated on the possible outcome of upcoming meetings and conferences, such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Implementation of other decisions was contingent upon a restructured UNCTAD secretariat. It is perhaps too early to be categoric about certain likely implications on the economies of African countries, in particular.

3. The intention in this paper is to provide a general synopsis of the outcome of the Conference in terms of the extent to which the aspirations of developing countries in an interdependent world were addressed. It also focuses on the reaction of the developed countries, especially their renewed commitment to alleviating the developing countries's economic problems through the machinery of UNCTAD pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) addressing trade and development issues of developing countries.

4. UNCTAD VIII, which should have been held in 1991, was postponed to 1992 because of difficulties encountered in finding a venue and fixing its timing. Furthermore, it took time to resolve among member States the Conference's agenda and the theme stressing the urgent need for better international cooperation and instruments to avoid the continued marginalization of vulnerable economies and populations in the face of internationalization and/or globalization of economies. The eighth session was preceded by a pre-conference of senior officials on 6 and 7 February 1992.

I. UNCTAD IN A CHANGING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

5. Contrary to the outcome of previous UNCTAD sessions that often adopted resolutions or, as in the case of UNCTAD VII, the Final Act of UNCTAD VII (document TD/350), UNCTAD VIII concluded its deliberations by adopting a short "Declaration submitted by the President of the eighth session of the Conference" (document TD/L.340/Rev.1), a sort of chapeau acknowledging and stressing the need for UNCTAD to remain an international forum poised to play a highly significant role in the new partnership for economic development, a partnership based on commitment by all member States to engage in a continuous and constructive dialogue inspired by the need to achieve a more efficient and equitable world economy. The Declaration also stressed that the success of such a new partnership would be impossible unless nations avoided and overcame confrontation by fostering a climate of genuine cooperation and solidarity. At the same time, it recognized the importance of strengthening national and international policies as well as multilateral cooperation adapted to the new realities.

6. The Conference acknowledged that the international community faced an unprecedented conjunction of challenges and opportunities at the end of traditional political tensions. Prospects had improved for strengthening multilateral cooperation as a result of a broad tide of economic reforms, democratization processes, and the gathering momentum for respect for human rights. Also highlighted were some of the

risks that were likely to arise and intensify from economic, social, humanitarian and ecological problems which needed to be urgently addressed by the international community.

7. The Conference took note of the fact that despite considerable achievements made by some developing countries including vigorous growth, diversification of their economies, a majority, particularly the LDCs most of which are in Africa, were facing stagnation, poverty, crisis of considerable proportions due in part to their structural weaknesses. It was therefore agreed that global policy dialogue would bring about more generally shared perception of a development process. In this regard, national and international policy measures were considered prerequisites to realizing the full potential of interdependence for the transmission of positive impulses, cumulative benefits for development worldwide.

8. Against that background, broad policy orientations of each agenda item were discussed, frequent reference being made to the most important challenges for the 1990s, such as the elimination of poverty and acceleration of economic growth and social development of developing countries on sustainable long-term basis. With the demise of Group C, the former centrally planned economies, the group negotiating system had began to thaw, a trend which was contributed to partly by members of the Group of 77 (G.77) during the seventh Ministerial Meeting of G.77 when some Latin American countries sought greater flexibility and freedom in the negotiations to defend their respective national interests rather than being bound by the solidarity of G.77. Thus, at Cartagena de Indias, only Africa and remotely Asia but not the majority of Latin America, gave any credence to the common G.77 platform the Teheran Final Document. The waning of the spirit of group confrontation in UNCTAD negotiations was a positive sign to Group B and such countries as Israel that had disliked the G.77 stand. They considered it a major stumbling block against free and uninhibited international cooperation.

9. This apart, Group B countries devoted most of their efforts to discussing the agenda items linking them to required structural changes within UNCTAD itself. The trend set at UNCTAD VIII definitely establishes how UNCTAD will conduct its business in future. Certain issues may never again find a place in the UNCTAD forum since adoption of resolutions is not to be encouraged. Some of the UNCTAD's Permanent Committees have been abolished, while the work of others have been allocated to Working Groups of the Trade and Development Board (TDB). The following is a brief summary in respect of the substantive agenda item on strengthening national and international action and multilateral cooperation for a healthy, secure and equitable world economy (document TD/339 and Corr.1).

A. Resources for development

10. UNCTAD VIII underscored several external difficulties developing countries face in mobilizing, allocating and utilizing domestic resources to the maximum effect possible. It recognized that, in the absence of fast economic growth, substantial increase in overall savings was not feasible. It therefore attached particular attention to mobilization of external finance in the form of increased official flows, foreign direct investment and the search for solutions to debt problems and stressed the need to identify ways and means for increased supplementary external finance. However, the reaction of most donor industrialized countries tended to link the issue of increasing external financing to certain conditionalities such as economic needs and democratization in the recipient developing countries. Another important element regarding additional resource mobilization in the 1990s included their urge for resources to go towards environmental protection, taking into account the initial steps of the agreement on an Interim Multilateral Fund to assist countries signatories to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layers and on the Global Environmental Facility to provide grants or concessional loans to developing countries in support of environmental measures in their specific areas.

11. Measures and policies proposed at national levels included efforts by developing countries to achieve macro-economic stability and predictability that in turn required increased monetary control and greater financial discipline compatible with the competitiveness and institutional development of capital markets.

Countries were urged to introduce appropriate institutional reforms and sound national banking systems that could operate within the context of liberal and secure international financial systems.

12. Good governance, fight against corruption and improved allocation of resources by reducing excessive military expenditures in the development process were stressed. Hence, States were urged to ensure political stability and secure a predictable economic environment as an absolute pre-requisites for the proper functioning of the market and expansion of the private sector as well as for attracting foreign direct investment and for stemming capital flight. Public sector reforms were called for in order to improve mobilization and use of savings in the developing countries. Countries were urged to undertake fiscal policy reforms with a view to rationalizing and simplifying taxation without negating the revenue, equity and incentives principles; other non-debt-creating financial flows were recommended. The virtues of privatization as a liable option to fostering competition and efficiency were extolled. The Conference stressed that sound economic policies needed to be based on the interplay of market forces in order to stimulate entrepreneurship.

1. Debt

13. The issue of debt was very extensively debated during the session by Africa and other developing countries who adopted a consolidated stand on the basis of the Teheran Final Document. The debt crisis was highlighted in the context of debt owed to multilateral financial institutions and commercial banks. As debtors, they requested cancellation of all official bilateral debt of low-income countries. Some other developing countries toyed with the idea of introducing the concept of middle-income countries. The creditors insisted on continuing negotiations on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, it became evident that those countries that had embarked on recognized economic adjustment stood to receive consideration for cancellation. Developed countries also indicated that LDCs would receive favourable consideration, with possible continuation of cancellation of their debts.

14. Nonetheless, the Conference called for serious attention to be given to growth-oriented solutions to the debt problems of developing countries, especially to alleviating the debt-servicing burden by, among others, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. By the same token, low-income countries undertaking economic reforms required the support of multilateral financial institutions in the form of new disbursements and concessional funds.

2. External finance for development

15. The Conference acknowledged that the process of structural adjustment in developing countries needed to be adequately supported and funded. It urged that associated macro-economic and structural policy conditions should take due account of specific economic needs and conditions of developing countries. Developed countries were again urged to attain the target of devoting 0.7 per cent of their GNP to ODA. Donors reaffirmed their commitment undertaken at the second United Nations Conference on LDCs to bring about significant external support to LDCs.

3. Environment and development finance

16. As briefly mentioned above, issues of environmental degradation are poised to receive priority in resource allocation. Donors pledged continued efforts to ensure that external resources available from both public and private sectors in addition to resources provided through bilateral and multilateral channels would be increased and used effectively and efficiently in this regard. Developing countries were urged to recognize and address their local environmental degradation. In this respect, appropriate additional financial resources would be made available to them as part of strengthening the newly found partnership. Debt conversion by debtor countries would also be conditional upon the protection of the environment.

17. To a large extent, a number of issues of concern articulated by Africa in the Lusaka Declaration and in the Teheran Final Document had been reiterated by the Conference, in particular, the objective of combating absolute poverty, promoting investment, human capital (particularly education and health), preservation of the environment, respect for human rights and stability as indispensable elements of a strategy that focuses on people. It also emphasized that the primary source of funding for development would remain developing countries' own savings. However, it became quite evident that capital was likely to be invested in countries where economic rules were clear, just and effectively enforced, without which it was pointless to hope for assistance from abroad and equally impossible to realize domestic potential.

B. International trade

18. The Conference fully recognized that the international trading environment had been affected by a number of developments which had created both challenges and opportunities. It therefore called for appropriate action like substantial concessions on market access with a view to promoting world trade, increasing opportunities for developing countries' exports; ongoing reform to GATT rules on agriculture to provide for secure access to markets for developing countries' exports; mitigation and compensation for negative impacts on net food importing developing countries; programme for phasing out the multifibre arrangement (MFA) and reintegrating trade in textiles and clothing into the rules and principles of GATT; and fullest possible liberalization of trade in tropical products on a non-reciprocal basis.

19. The Conference stressed that agreements on safeguards, anti-dumping and countervailing measures would impart stability and predictability to international trade; an agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs) would facilitate access by developing countries to technology and the pursuit of public policy and social objectives; a multilateral framework for trade in services would assist in enhancing the international competitiveness of developing country service firms and enable them to gain effective access to world markets by, inter alia, incorporating the MFN principle and universal coverage of the service sectors; an agreement on trade-related investment measures (TRIMs) would clearly recognize the right of developing countries to establish conditions for foreign investors intended to promote development and enhance competition; a legal structure for the implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round that precluded both unilateral action and cross-sectoral retaliation between trade in goods and measures relating to intellectual property protection, investment and services would be counter-productive. However, the Conference failed to arrive at a definitive position with regard to establishing a multilateral trade organization to implement the envisaged results of the ongoing discussions in the United Nations and in GATT on strengthening institutional arrangements.

1. Market access

20. While reaffirming that benefits of expanded international trade were unevenly distributed with few developing countries achieving appreciable growth in their exports, the Conference urged all countries to increase transparency of their trade regimes, halt and reverse protectionism and improve market access. Countries extending preferences were also urged to comply with multilaterally agreed principles of GSP whose objectives had still to be fulfilled.

21. In this regard, it is important to note that African countries have to a large extent already liberalized their trade, pursuant to certain imposed structural adjustment policies. Therefore Africa has very little or nothing at all to gain from further trade liberalization in view of some of the impediments posed by non-tariff barriers against its products, in particular in the area of textiles and clothing.

22. The strong hope that the Conference had on the successful outcome of Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations leaves much to be desired. Doubts have arisen because the current negotiated version of Uruguay Round has somehow deviated from the Punta del Este Declaration. The final

result could probably be neither expanded trade nor development possibilities for Africa, not to mention a lack of greater security and predictability.

2. Trade and environmental protection

23. Environmental protection, particularly by developing countries preserving their natural and ecological resources, was given prominence. The concern of developing countries forced by unfavourable conditions in international trade to feel obliged to maintain their export pattern through over-exploitation of their natural resources with a view to meeting development requirements was also discussed. In that regard, the Conference called for trade measures to be found to enforce environmental policies, principles and rules including domestic trade measures targeted to achieve certain environmental objectives.

24. Although environmental policies were proposed to deal with root causes of environmental degradation and to avoid environmental measures that restrict trade, the extent to which interaction between trade and environment policies is likely to be used will essentially underpin the African countries' development and trade that is resource-based. The application of principles of environmental policies to trade will no doubt cause unwarranted economic and social upheavals. It is important to note that while UNCTAD was urged to undertake research that clarifies the linkages between trade and environment, the Conference also accepted the concept that improved market access for developing countries' exports will be tied to sound environmental policies.

25. Within trade policy reforms, trade efficiency and facilitation were stressed. The effectiveness of new techniques and procedures capable of saving time and money in international trade transactions were duly recognized. For instance, trade facilitation strategies relating to electronic data interchange (EDI) that were already effectively improving trade efficiency needed to be expanded. Against that background, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD is required to initiate consultations with member States with a view to establishing an expert group on trade efficiency as one of the ad hoc working groups proposed within the new structure of the Trade and Development Board. The results thereof are to be submitted to an international symposium on trade efficiency in 1994.

3. Technology

26. The Conference reconfirmed the importance of technology in world trade, particularly trade in manufactures and services. The process of globalization of trade and economic prospects for technological change in developing countries would be determined by their ability to have access to modern technology, increase the capability to absorb and utilize it. The Conference stressed revitalization of investment flows and enhancement of its contribution to the development of developing countries that required increased capacity to absorb imported technology, improved infrastructure and, most important of all, educational standards and trained technicians.

27. Therefore several measures and actions both at national and international levels were called for. They included, at national level, expansion and adaptation of educational systems embracing vocational training; building up of scientific and technological research and development capabilities; and diffusion of technology within small- and medium-size companies in developing countries. At international level, developed countries were urged to facilitate unhindered access by developing countries to high, new and emerging technological know-how and to consider ways and means of facilitating technology cooperation with developing countries, including means of encouraging technology flows to developing countries, public guarantee schemes to promote joint ventures, licensing agreements and research and development collaboration agreements.

28. With regard to the negotiations on an international code of conduct on transfer of technology, the Conference concluded that conditions did not exist to reach full agreement on outstanding issues. UNCTAD was therefore urged to continue its work on facilitating an agreement.

29. A major constraint is that the schemes are on commercial basis which, for a majority of African countries, puts them out of reach. Similarly, it is possible to conclude that multilateral commitments and policy actions including financial assistance on concessional terms to promote training as well as acquisition and transfer of technology to build developing countries' technological and human capabilities failed to get consensus acceptance. Therefore technology will continue to be transferred on commercial and country-by-country basis by mutual agreement.

4. Services

30. The Conference recognized the strategic significance of services in the development process and the dominance of developed countries' firms in world trade in services in total contrast to developing countries whose economies were characterized by inability to build up competitive capacity in this area. The Conference therefore urged increased participation by developing countries in trade in services in order to enable them to benefit from their comparative advantages in the services sector.

31. As reflected in the Lusaka Declaration (paras. 85-91), developing countries had requested preferential market access for their service exports, including through temporary movement of labour for supply of service. In this regard and in order to assist developing countries to overcome handicaps in the field of trade in services, the Conference urged UNCTAD, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies dealing with services, to continue promoting mutually beneficial cooperation with a view to promoting environmentally friendly services and enhancing the contribution of services to their sustainable development. In this respect, the Conference defined the work programme of the UNCTAD secretariat, emphasizing that its orientation was to provide the focus for the evolution that enabled the services sector to contribute to the development process.

32. Maritime transport service being of crucial importance, the Conference welcomed the work of UNCTAD in this field. It also acknowledged that effective participation in shipping by a number of countries had been affected by structural and technological changes within the sector. While international shipping policy is based on the equality of all maritime partners, insistence by the African delegations that as a region it be given special attention did not yield much, except for the Conference's call upon UNCTAD to continue to provide technical assistance to developing countries on a bilateral, subregional and/or regional basis in the field of maritime transport. It remains to be seen how the new structure of the UNCTAD secretariat will cope with the mandates on the United Nations Convention on the Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences and other services.

33. It is perhaps worth mentioning, in conclusion, that the developed countries have managed to create, control and retain within their borders services which constitute not only the highest value-added segment but also most strategic in character, for instance innovation, research and development, strategic planning, design and engineering. Moreover, they control marketing and distribution thereof and thus continue to increase the gap with the developing countries in terms of competitiveness in international trade. It is imperative therefore for developing countries and Africa in particular to strengthen the services sector and increase its participation. To a large extent, this could be dependent upon successful improvement in the latter's position in the international division of labour.

34. Needless to say, Africa is disadvantaged by having a less developed industrial base whose structures are not integrated. These factors have combined to hinder spontaneous development of producer services and no doubt put Africa at a further disadvantage in the international chain of value-added. Therefore,

liberalization of trade in services could exacerbate Africa's problems because of a lack of mechanism capable of stopping such a thing from happening.

5. Commodities

35. World commodity trade in the 1980s was characterized by low and declining real prices in international markets. The adverse effects of these trends resulted in substantial contraction in export earnings, especially for countries of the third world dependent on export of commodities. Future prospects could be constrained by slow economic growth and the declining rate of raw material usage per unit of GDP, especially in the industrialized countries. The suspension of the operation of international commodity agreements (ICAs), coupled with a decline in total world share of developing countries because the developed countries expanded their export share, created severe balance-of-payment difficulties for most developing countries. The Conference therefore acknowledged that solutions to the problems facing commodities, including average world market prices which had fluctuated around historic low levels, could only take effect with increased diversification, local processing and greater market access.

36. Some of the agreed solutions to the problems in the commodity field needed to be sound, compatible and consistent at national and international levels with policies that also bore in mind the broad aims of the Integrated Programme for Commodities. The Conference stressed that cooperation in international commodity trade required to be strengthened, that existing mechanisms for compensatory financing needed to be reviewed in the light of new developments and, where possible, new ones needed to be established.

37. Views converged on elimination of poverty within an interdependent world with the creation of a supportive framework towards this objective. In this regard, the Conference called for concerted efforts on the part of the governments of developed countries and relevant international organizations to support national commodity policies of developing countries, including providing adequate and appropriate financial and technical cooperation for commodity development. While reaffirming the need for improved flow of technology to developing countries with a view to lowering dependency on commodity trade in the process of economic development, it was also noted that the transfer of technology would be based on commercial terms agreed upon between the parties concerned.

38. The Conference agreed on the urgent need to achieve improved market access conditions for commodities through progressive removal of barriers to imports of primary commodity products, processed, semi-processed or finished products. However, the consensus reached regarding calling for the dismantling of all barriers on processed products and elimination of policies that induce uncompetitive production such as subsidies on production and exports was non-committal. Like most conclusions of the Conference, the issue of improved market access was made conditional to successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

39. However, the Conference agreed for support measures to be directed towards efforts aimed at institution building, promoting entrepreneurship, horizontal diversification and crop substitution, increased participation by developing countries in processing, marketing and distribution. It also affirmed that adequate official bilateral and multilateral resources, including private investment, was needed to finance diversification projects and programmes and the promotion and development of resource-based industries, as well as commodity-related services activities, possibly through special facilities for these purposes.

40. In this regard, the Conference welcomed the decision of the General Assembly in resolution 46/151 concerning support for the diversification of the African economies.

41. Producers and consumers of individual commodities were urged to examine ways and means of reinforcing and improving their cooperation in order to contribute to the solution of problems in the commodity area, taking fully into account the particular characteristics and situation of each individual

commodity. The Conference also called for the pursuance of substantive negotiations between producers and consumers with a view to achieving viable and more efficient international agreements. Similarly, in situations of large stock overhangs, account of market trends and arrangements as well as the findings of study groups had to be taken.

42. Turning to the issue of the C. mmon Fund for Commodities whose coming into operation was welcomed, the Conference urged max .num participation by all and that its resources had to be fully exploited. The Conference called for an increase in resources to the Second Account of the Common Fund as well as to ensure that the Account became fully operational as soon as possible and that its benefits reached the least developed countries and commodities of interest to developing countries, especially those of small produce exporters.

43. From the African standpoint, the recognition by the Conference of other equally important aspects is worth mentioning. These included commodity-related shortfalls in export earnings of developing countries, continuance and preservation for beneficiaries, compensation financing mechanisms, namely the IMF CCFF, the ACP-EEC STABEX and SYSMIN schemes of the Lome Convention, the EEC scheme for non-ACP least developed countries and the Swiss scheme. The Conference concluded discussion by inviting other countries to consider introducing similar schemes.

II. CONCLUDING GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

44. The Conference went into session under a lot of uncertainty, first, because of the many brackets to the texts that were tabled; second, the waning spirit of solidarity within the Group of 77 coupled with the disappearance of Group C as an identifiable power bloc in the UNCTAD negotiating structure; and third, the seeming insistence by certain Group B countries to radically reduce the role of UNCTAD.

45. Perhaps some of the profound changes witnessed by the world at large and the ensuing new spirit of international cooperation renewed the interest of the majority of the delegations in the relevance of UNCTAD. Thus, statement after statement made in plenary and summarized in the report of the Conference attested to the emergence of a new sense of partnership for development among member States and stressed that UNCTAD was poised to make a major contribution. However, some of the proposed solutions to problems were predicated on decisions taken in other fora.

46. The Conference had much going for it in terms of what it was able to agree upon such as interrelated issues of trade, sustainable development, environmental protection, environmentally sound technology and better natural resource management. It also attached high priority to acceleration of development that is environmentally sound and sustainable. Furthermore, it sought the enhancement of the well-being of today's generation while preserving the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs. It is in this regard that it welcomed the holding of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and transmitted a message (document TD/L.341/Rev.1) expressing the high importance it attached to UNCED and reaffirmed that a revitalized UNCTAD could contribute to the implementation of the action programmes of UNCED.

47. Despite the initial uncertainty regarding UNCTAD's future, it was generally agreed that UNCTAD needed urgent adaptation and revitalization to enable it to seize the new opportunities of fostering international cooperation for development, pursuant to its mandate as enunciated in resolution 1995 (XIX). The Conference reaffirmed UNCTAD as the principal organ of the United Nations in the field of trade and development. The Conference also reiterated that it was a most appropriate focal point for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in such key areas as trade, finance, investment, services and technology for the interests of all countries, particularly developing countries. It adopted certain changes to the UNCTAD structure with a view to enabling it to respond better and more effectively to the needs of its member States.

48. Of particular interest to Africa was the proposal to consider convening a world conference on commodities (document TD/L.342) the main objective of which would be to bring together producers and consumers with marketing enterprises and other market actors under the auspices of UNCTAD. Some of the views expressed in the corridors touched on the possible danger of marginalizing efforts already initiated to revive certain international commodity agreements. The Conference therefore requested the Standing Committee on Commodities, through the Trade and Development Board, to undertake a comprehensive analysis and to accordingly advise and invite the General Assembly of the United Nations to convene a world conference on commodities under UNCTAD auspices.

49. In the light of the above brief summary, required follow-up action at individual country and regional level as well as at secretariat level needs to be stressed. At national and regional level, what is important is the likely total different approach needed in future participation. In other words, Africa must reconsider its reliance on the strategy of G.77 solidarity and how, as individual countries and/or as a region, to respond to a restructured UNCTAD mechanism.

50. On the other hand, the ECA secretariat will also need to re-examine its work programme taking into account previous experiences, including collaboration with other secretariats to see how best to accommodate many of the decisions taken at UNCTAD VIII in terms of better delivery of its technical assistance to and backstopping of member States. This will perhaps not be difficult if the twenty-seventh session of the Commission/eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers were to approve the secretariat's proposals contained in the document entitled "The Economic Commission for Africa in the 1990s: A policy and management framework for facing Africa's development challenges" (E/ECA/CM.18/4).

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Thirteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
10-16 April 1992

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-seventh session of the Commission/ eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
20-24 April 1992

ISSUES FROM THE SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND SECTORAL BODIES OF THE COMMISSION CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

This document contains resolutions brought to the attention of the Commission or calling for action on the part of the Commission, which have been adopted by its subsidiary organs since its last session, and which are not otherwise the subject of separate items on the agenda of the present meeting.

I. ISSUES BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION

1. The following issues are recorded for the interest of the Commission, but do not require any action on its part:

A. Fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 18-23 November 1991

2. The Conference adopted the following resolution:

Resolution 1/91

The Conference of Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization,

Recalling the recommendations made and the resolutions adopted at its third meeting as well as the decisions taken at its fourth meeting on the need to intensify efforts to improve on human conditions and human resources development within the continent and to intensify efforts to monitor the status of human resources planning, development and utilization in Africa,

Conscious of the many laudable initiatives taken by African Governments, non-governmental organizations and the international community at large to assist in the development and more effective utilization of human resources in African countries,

Noting with regret that in spite of these efforts and initiatives, the indicators of human development have continued to worsen,

Aware of the nefarious consequences of such trends on Africa's prospects for socio-economic transformation and development in the long term,

1. Urges African Governments to give priority to the human dimension and to the implementation of an integrated approach to human resources planning, development and utilization, particularly as expressed in the Regional Framework for Human Resources Development and Utilization in Africa;

2. Urges further all African Governments to redouble their efforts and make the necessary resource allocations to improve the quality of education at all levels, to increase the relevance of education, training and research in their institutions of higher learning in furtherance of the transformation and sustained development of their economies, to promote the growth of employment in all sectors of their economies, to re-build development executive capacities, and to stem the tide of the brain drain, and undertake reforms in higher education;

3. Commends the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Human Resources Development and Utilization for the elaboration of the Regional Framework for Human Resources Development and Utilization in Africa and calls on it to intensify its efforts for the coordination of United Nations activities at the regional level in the field human resources development and utilization;

4. Calls upon the international community and the United Nations agencies to give full support to the strategy and priorities espoused in the Regional Framework for Human Resources Development and Utilization in Africa, make greater use of local consultants and expertise in development projects funded by them; and urges the United Nations Development Programme to implement the pilot programme on integrated human resources development;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to intensify the Commission's efforts to assist African Governments in strengthening their human resources planning, development and utilization capacities;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to pursue, with vigour, the various measures instituted to assist in reversing the brain drain, especially the Economic Commission for Africa/International Organization for Migration Return of Skills Programme for Africa, and to promptly implement the regional programme for the exchange of African experts on a pilot basis;

7. Calls upon the Intergovernmental Organization for Migration to increase its support to the Return of Skills Programme for Africa operated by the Commission within the regional framework set by African Governments; and also to contribute resources to the Commission's regional programme for the exchange of African experts.

B. Fourth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 17-18 December 1991

3. The Conference adopted the following resolutions:

Resolution 1 (IV)

The African debt crisis

The fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 17 and 18 December 1991,

Recalling that the African Common Position on Africa's External Indebtedness adopted by the extraordinary summit of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held in December 1987 remains the framework without which no lasting solution to the African debt problem can be achieved,*

Recalling further that the African debt crisis persists notwithstanding the various economic programmes undertaken by member countries, at times, at great socio-economic and political cost,

Noting that notwithstanding the various debt-relief initiatives that have been so far announced to alleviate the debt burden of African countries, the debt crisis still persists and constitutes a major obstacle to the socio-economic recovery of the African continent as a whole,

Aware that although some laudable initiatives have been announced by creditor countries, these, to a large extent, remain unimplemented and have been discriminatory against middle-income countries which continue to suffer from indebtedness,

Convinced that a lasting solution to Africa's external debt crisis remains necessary for the sustained recovery of African economies,

1. Welcomes the decision of the new Secretary-General of the United Nations to make alleviation of the debt burden of the poorest countries of the world a major priority area for the United Nations during his term of office;

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* Adopted with reservations from the delegation of Morocco.

2. Further welcomes the initiative of the Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa for having organized the Africa Debt Day in New York in October 1991 which proved a useful forum for impressing upon the international community the persistence of Africa's external indebtedness;

3. Calls upon African Governments to devote greater effort to debt management at the national level, while at the same time taking care not to marginalize the contribution of certain important segments of the international community, especially influential citizens, government officials and prominent persons from creditor countries in resolving the debt issue;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to continue in his efforts to make the African/African-American Forum and other like-minded organizations, important avenues for bringing African economic and social issues to the attention of the international community;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the President of the African Development Bank and the Director General of the African Centre for Monetary Studies, to continue to provide technical assistance to African countries at their request with a view to enabling them to find a durable solution to the debt problem in its totality including that of African middle-income countries;

6. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the next meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance on new initiatives that will have been taken to deal with the African debt problem (including debts owed to multilateral institutions) within a framework which establishes a linkage between debt, trade and development.

Resolution 2 (IV)

The role of indigenous banking and financial institutions in the mobilization of financial resources for development

The fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 17 and 18 December 1991,

Concerned that most of the African financial institutions operating in Africa have been ineffective in mobilizing financial resources to finance the development process on the continent,

Further concerned that the imbalances between the volume of savings and investment requirements remain large in most African countries and have perpetuated the overdependence of African countries on external development financing,

Aware that the low level of domestic savings in Africa is partly due to the low levels of per capita income in most African countries, inadequate financial networks and substantial budget deficits incurred to finance unproductive investments,

Further aware of the need for complementarity between the implementation of broad macro-economic adjustment policies (such as economic liberalization and privatization policies) with a view to broadening and deepening financial intermediation in Africa so as to secure effective resource mobilization,

1. Calls upon African countries to put in place appropriate policies that will raise real incomes and savings of the African people, especially in rural areas, as well as implement financial reform programmes aimed at broadening and deepening the financial intermediation process;

2. Invites African countries, with the technical support of the Executive Secretary, if called upon, to carry out case studies with a view to identifying and eliminating obstacles to the mobilization of domestic and external resources for financing economic development in Africa and thereby reduce the continent's overdependence on external resources to finance this process.

Resolution 3 (IV)

Anticipated impact of new developments in the European Monetary System (EMS) on the monetary and financial arrangements of African countries and the need to accelerate monetary integration in Africa

The fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 17 and 18 December 1991,

Noting the rapid pace of monetary and financial integration currently taking place in the European Economic Community and the decision by the Community members to adopt a single European currency by the year 1999,

Considering that these developments will have an impact on the monetary and financial arrangements of African countries by virtue of the relationships between the African economies and those of countries of the European Economic Community,

Mindful of the importance of coordinated monetary and financial policies in the integration process and aware of the debilitating impact of uncoordinated monetary policies on Africa's economic integration process,

Recalling the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and in particular its provisions on monetary integration,

Taking note of the preliminary analysis undertaken by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa to evaluate the impact of these new developments in the European Monetary System on the major macro-economic variables of African economies,

Further taking note of the possible impending association of the CFA Franc Zone in the new arrangements of the European Monetary System,

1. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the President of the African Development Bank and the Director-General of the African Centre for Monetary Studies to assist member States in monitoring the evolution of the international monetary systems, including the European Monetary System, and in evaluating their possible impact on the macro-economic variables and integration of African countries;

2. Also calls upon African countries to accelerate the ratification of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and to ensure the speedy implementation of its provisions on monetary integration.

II. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

4. The following issues require the action of the Commission. In the case where there are financial implications involved in the action, a separate "Programme Budget Implications" (PBI) document will be distributed to the meeting:

A. Second ordinary meeting of the Governing Board of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI)
Kampala, Uganda, 16-18 May 1991

5. The second meeting of the Governing Board of UNAFRI proposed and adopted the following amendments to the Statute of the Institute:

1. ARTICLE V

Governing Board: Composition and functions

Presently reads:

1. The Governing Board shall consist of:

(a) The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (hereinafter referred to as "the Executive Secretary"), or his representative, who shall be ex-officio chairman of the Governing Board;

To now read:

1. The Governing Board shall consist of:

(a) The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (hereinafter referred to as "the Executive Secretary"), or his representative, who shall be ex-officio chairman of the Governing Board as representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations;

2. ARTICLE IX

Financial resources of the Institute

Presently reads:

1. The Institute shall derive its financial resources from annual contributions made by member States as determined by the Conference of Ministers and from voluntary contributions by donors.

To now read:

1. Without any prejudice to possible financing of core staff and recurrent operations of the Institute from the regular budget of the United Nations, the Institute shall derive its financial resources from annual contributions made by member States as determined by the Conference of Ministers and from voluntary contributions by donors.

Action of the Conference of Ministers

6. The Conference is requested to endorse the changes submitted by the Governing Board.

B. Seventh meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development (IGCESTD)
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 4-8 November 1991

7. The seventh meeting brought for adoption the following resolution:

Establishment of a Conference of African Ministers of Science and Technology for Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Commission resolution 248 (X1) of 22 February 1973 by which it established the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development,

Recalling also its resolution 385 (XV) which opened the membership of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development to all African member States,

Noting the special appeal in operative paragraph 4 which called on member States to designate focal points for the work of the Intergovernmental Committee and to ensure continuity in their representation on the Committee,

Recognizing that since the establishment of the Committee in 1973, the issues of science and technology in the region have grown rapidly in importance and complexity, and that there is a desire for a coordinated approach in tackling these issues among the member States,

Recognizing that in view of the priority being given to science and technology as an essential tool for the proper exploitation of Africa's natural resources, many member States have set up Ministries of Science and Technology and the number of such ministries has increased,

Recalling that the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community which was signed by the African leaders at the Organization of African Unity Summit in Abuja, in June 1991, places considerable emphasis on the role of science and technology in the future development of the African continent, and calls for specific actions to strengthen the technological capacities of the member States and to promote technological self-reliance,

Convinced that the attainment of the objectives of the science and technology component of the African Economic Community will require concerted effort between the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank and contributions from the African intergovernmental science and technology institutions, and relevant international organizations in the development and consolidation of common strategies and policies,

1. Urges the Governments of African countries to take explicit measures, individually and collectively, to build up their endogenous capacities in science and technology;

2. Urges also the Governments of African countries to participate effectively in the subregional and regional initiatives with a view to achieve the science and technology targets in the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;

3. Decides to establish a Conference of African Ministers responsible for science and technology for development to ensure the required political and financial support to the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development, and to provide the forum for development and appraisal of concerted national and regional strategies and programmes for promoting

science and technology in the socio-economic development of member States, and calls upon the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity to cooperate in the implementation of this resolution;

4. Decides that the Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology for Development should meet every two years in conjunction with the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts.

Action of the Conference of Ministers

8. The Conference is being requested to endorse the establishment of a Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology for Development. This will have financial implications for the regular budget of the Commission. Any decision in this regard must be put before the Economic and Social Council for approval, and subsequently presented to the General Assembly, both for alterations in the structure of the Commission, and for the resources requested through the 1994-1995 programme budget. In the event that member States wish to avoid those financial implications, some other Conferences of Ministers under the Commission's structure may be considered for abolition or consolidation.

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FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/ SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

1. The twenty-sixth session of the Commission/seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 13 May 1991. The meeting adopted 21 resolutions embracing most of the issues discussed by the Conference. Some of those resolutions were specifically addressed to the United Nations General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), some were addressed to member States and international organizations and others were addressed to the ECA Executive Secretary. The purpose of the present document is to appraise the meeting with the actions taken by the secretariat towards the implementation of these resolutions.

Resolution 705 (XXVI): Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos at national, subregional and regional levels

2. In accordance with operative paragraphs 5 and 6 of this resolution which called on the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the President of the African Development Bank (ADB) to jointly monitor the implementation of the LPA and FAL as well as to prepare a comprehensive and sectoral review of the LPA and FAL, the secretariat is now in the process of concluding consultations on the establishment of the joint machinery with the two other African regional institutions. However, as part of the preparatory work on the process, the secretariat prepared a study on the future role of planning in Africa for the consideration of the seventh session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers and, through it, the eighteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. The study was undertaken within the framework of revitalizing planning in the context of the LPA and other similar regional programmes and strategies. It examines planning practices in Africa and drew a set of conclusions, namely the realization of long-term prospective studies for integrating short-, medium- and long-term planning; strengthening the statistical database; and the need for decentralized planning systems for popular participation in the planning processes in Africa.

Resolution 708 (XXVI): Acceleration of the economic integration process in Africa and strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres

3. In operative paragraph 4 of this resolution, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was requested to provide during its Fifth Programming Cycle sufficient resources to support the economic integration process in Africa, in particular to fund activities in priority areas which were not properly covered during the Fourth Programming Cycle. The orientation paper for the Fifth Programming Cycle, in the preparation of which the secretariat and UNDP collaborated closely, lays considerable emphasis on economic integration and cooperation as a priority area of the programme.

4. Operative paragraph 5 requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in close collaboration with the OAU and ADB, to redouble efforts to explore ways and means to provide all necessary technical assistance to the future African Economic Community, in particular, the drafting of its protocols and the implementation of the work programme of the Community. Such assistance is being vigorously pursued within the framework of the joint ECA/OAU/ADB secretariat.

5. The General Assembly of the United Nations itself, within the framework of the 1992-1993 programme budget, provided the MULPOCs with five additional professional posts to further strengthen the Centres.

Resolution 709 (XXVI):	United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000); and
Resolution 710 (XXVI):	Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

6. Follow-up action on these resolutions is treated in document E/ECA/CM.18/17. With regard to resolution 709 (XXVI), it should be added that the fourth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), held in Vienna, Austria, in November 1991, adopted resolution GC.4/8 on the second United Nations Industrial Development Decade (IDDA II) which, inter alia, called for the following actions:

(a) The adoption, as top priority, of the programme for the second IDDA covering the national, subregional and regional components;

(b) The allocation for the 1992-1993 biennium of $US 8.6 million for the activities in support of the implementation of the programme for the second IDDA;

(c) Giving high priority to the mobilization of external financial resources and the organization of investment promotion meetings, solidarity meetings and consultations on industrial financing;

(d) Intensifying efforts aimed at providing African intergovernmental organizations with the necessary assistance in strengthening the role of the industrial sector in the implementation of the second IDDA at the subregional level;

(e) Involving existing African regional institutions and organizations in the implementation of monitoring of the programme for the second IDDA;

(f) Harmonization of the activities of the second IDDA and those of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA);

(g) Calling on UNDP to allocate under its Fifth Cycle (1991-1996) adequate resources for supporting the activities of the regional and country programmes for Africa.

7. Operative paragraphs 4(a), (b) and (c) of resolution 710 (XXVI) on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa appealed to all African Governments to give every support for the achievement of the objectives of the UNTACDA II programme at national, subregional and regional levels. The majority of ECA member States have now established national coordinating committees (NCCs) as their instruments of action for implementation of the objectives of UNTACDA II at national, subregional and regional levels. Their respective governments are now expected to report to the Conference on the functioning of these NCCs, such as participating in the implementation of UNTACDA II projects.

8. The secretariat has taken a number of measures in response to operative paragraph 5 of the same resolution which requested the Commission, as lead agency, to ensure that adequate manpower and financial resources, regular and extrabudgetary, are allocated for harmonizing, coordinating and monitoring the organization and implementation of the Decade activities and other relevant projects which have been mandated to the Commission. The United Nations General Assembly allocation mentioned in document E/ECA/CM.18/17 is part of these efforts. Furthermore, the 1992-1993 regular work programme of the ECA secretariat has been revised with a view to focusing the work of the ECA regular staff on the implementation of UNTACDA II. In addition, a project document has been submitted to UNDP (paragraph 6) requesting extrabudgetary resources to enable the Commission to hire some additional albeit temporary staff.

9. The United Nations and other international organizations are working closely with the Commission, in accordance with operative paragraph 7, mainly as active members of the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC), the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC) and of the Sub-sectoral Working Groups of UNTACDA II.

10. In order to facilitate the financing of national, subregional and regional Decade projects, in response to the appeal of the ECA Conference of Ministers in operative paragrapn 8, a meeting was organized with some 25 major financing institutions and agencies on 29 November 1991 at the ACP Secretariat in Brussels, Belgium. The main objective of the meeting was to explain in detail to the participating financing institutions, agencies and donors the UNTACDA II programme and to work out with them a framework of cooperation with the RMC.

11. In general, all the participants supported UNTACDA II programme. The donor community expressed its readiness to assist Africa to implement the programme. Emphasis was placed on the need to view transport and communications as vital economic sectors which should not only pay for themselves but also earn revenue for the national budget. In expressing their satisfaction with the UNTACDA II programme, many donor agencies also indicated their intention to collaborate among themselves and the RMC in financing the UNTACDA projects.

12. Regarding operative paragraphs 9-13 of the resolution which called for the establishment of a Single Bureau for the Trans-African Highway Authorities, the following are the steps taken so far:

(a) Draft statutes for the Single Bureau are being prepared for approval by the second Combined Meeting of Intergovernmental Experts on Trans-African Highways to be held in June 1992;

(b) The statutes will supercede those statutes and regulations governing the individual Trans-African Highway Authorities;

(c) A mechanism for collecting contributions from the member States to support the Bureau is also under preparation for submission to the same meeting;

(d) The new extended programme for the trans-African highways programme is included in the first phase of UNTACDA II. In this regard, the RMC, of which UNDP is a member, is expected to contribute to the mobilization of resources for its execution.

Resolution 711 (XXVI): Revitalization of mining industries in Africa

13. Operative paragraph 1 of the resolution requested the preparation of a comprehensive and comparative study on mineral development policies in Africa, with a view to recommending areas of these policies to be improved at subregional and regional levels, in order to enhance cooperation among member States and increase their negotiating capabilities.

14. The secretariat submitted a project proposal to ADB, the World Bank and their institutions. The objective of the project is to provide member States with some guidelines which they could use in the process of revising, reformulating and/or establishing their mining policies.

15. Taking into consideration changes which have occurred in the African mining sector during the last five years, the lack of investment in this sector, and the need for the continent to improve its investment climate, the secretariat has established a document on this subject which has been communicated to ADB for consideration.

16. Operative paragraph 3 of the resolution requested the Commission to explore ways and means of financing a special study on present conditions of artisanal and small-scale mining of precious and semi-precious minerals. A programme, including the above-mentioned studies as well as the study on mining policies, has been established as a project and submitted to UNDP for consideration.

17. The report on the fifth Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa was also sent to UNDP, which was requested to assist ECA in its efforts towards the revitalization of the African mining sector. The programme mentioned under operative paragraph 3 has also been given to UNDP.

Resolution 712 (XXVI): African participation in the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

18. By resolution 712 (XXVI), the ECA Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to continue, jointly with the Secretary-General of the OAU, the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). It also requested him to report to the Conference at its eighteenth meeting on the implementation of this resolution.

19. In the implementation of this resolution, the Executive Secretary of ECA requested the Secretary-General of the OAU to place the Conference preparations on the agenda at the OAU summit of Heads of State and Government. As a result, OAU resolution CM/Res. 1361 (LIV) of the fifty-fourth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers, which took place in Abuja, Nigeria, from 27 May to 1 June 1991, was adopted. It requested the Secretary-General of the OAU to pursue jointly with the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the preparation of the African region in the UNCED and take all the necessary steps to safe-guard the African Common Position both during the preparatory meetings as well as during the Conference itself. The African Common Position on the African Environment and Development Agenda emphasizes that Africa's approach to UNCED-1992 is anchored on three broad issues:

(a) Imperative of popular participation and full democratization at all levels of governance and decision-making process relating to environmental management and development;

(b) Economic empowerment of the region as a whole, of individual countries, especially women and grass-roots groups; this is required for dealing effectively with mass growing poverty, rising global inequalities and human resources development; and

(c) Necessity for the effective coordination of environment and development programmes and policies at the subregional and regional levels.

20. The African Environment and Development Agenda emphasized that environmental management is not and should not be addressed as a sectoral issue. Managing the environment is an integral part of the development process, which in itself demands a multifaceted approach. Environmental action, as part and parcel of the national, regional and global social and economic developmental process, while catering for global concerns, must be inward-looking in the first place. In other words, Africa's political and economic independence must be the interests to defend in all areas. These include negotiations on the development and transfer of science and technology, all forms of technical assistance and international economic relations.

21. In addition to this, the OAU participated actively in the first Regional Conference held in Cairo from 11 to 16 July 1991. The OAU is also a member of the joint secretariat which prepared for and serviced the second Ministerial Conference on the subject, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 13 and 14 November 1991. It also participated at other related activities leading to the Conference in Rio de Janeiro from 1 to 12 June 1992. The OAU also presented the African Common Position to its Council of Ministers in February 1992

as part of the mobilization of the political will both for the participation of Africa at the Conference and the implementation of the African Environment and Development Agenda.

Resolution 713 (XXVI): The African social situation

22. Operative paragraph 1 of this resolution calls upon African Governments, the Commission, and other relevant bodies "to give priority to and intensify their efforts in the development and implementation of effective policies and measures in social development".

23. Included in the work programme of the Commission during the 1992-1993 biennium are activities which affect the vulnerable groups such as youth, disabled persons and the elderly. These include the preparation of technical publications on youth and health, the role and contribution of youth to the conservation of the African environment, youth associations in Africa, and the social and economic situation of the aging. In addition, an expert meeting on innovative strategies for dealing with youth unemployment in the region is envisaged.

24. Operative paragraph 3 requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to develop appropriate strategies to revitalize the social development programme in the secretariat "so that it could be more responsive to the needs of member States...".

25. In response to this request, the secretariat has created an Inter-Divisional Committee on Development with Social Concern. One of the objectives of the Committee is to formulate modalities on how social issues could be given due weight in the secretariat, in an integrated approach, in the medium-term plan, the biennial work programmes and in the formulation of outputs.

26. Operative paragraphs 4 invites all those concerned to prepare and observe the International Year of the Family, 1994, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 44/82. Pursuant to this, an expert group meeting will be convened in 1993, on the impact of economic and social changes on the African family, with a view to determining the policy implications of these changes and the strategies and measures required to maintain and strengthen the family as the natural and fundamental unit of African society.

27. Operative paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 underline the importance of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), and urges member States to honour their financial obligations to the Institute. Bilateral and multilateral institutions and donors, particularly UNDP, were called upon to increase their technical and financial assistance to the Institute.

28. Although member States have consistently expressed full commitment and support to the objectives of the Institute, through various recommendations and resolutions, these expressions have not been matched with a demonstration of financial commitment to the Institute. Out of a total of 26 members which have acceded to the Statute of the Institute, only four, namely Uganda, Nigeria, Tunisia and Malawi have paid their assessed contributions for 1989-1990. Uganda has allocated a substantial amount of funds to the renovation the host facilities of the Institute.

29. UNDP's contribution to the Institute remains considerably the highest. Total UNDP contribution covering the period 1987-1993 is $US 2.01 million. As a demonstration of its support to the objectives and work of UNAFRI, the forty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly has approved a grant of $180,000 to the Institute. This should serve as an encouragement to member States and other donor agencies to increase their technical and financial support to the Institute.

Resolution 714 (XXV): Women in development

30. The resolution, among other things, requested ECA to organize meetings of the Subregional Committees with a view to revitalizing subregional structures on women and consult the situation of women in the context of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation. Meetings were scheduled to take place as follows:

(a) For the Cental African subregion, in Yaounde, from 17 to 19 February 1992;

(b) For the Great Lakes countries, in Gisenyi, on 17 and 18 February 1992;

(c) For the Eastern and Southern African countries, in Lusaka, from 2 to 4 March 1992;

(d) For the West African countries, in Niamey, from 20 to 22 March 1992.

31. Priorities defined by each subregion at these meetings would form the basis for designing women in development (WID) programmes in each subregion.

Resolution 715 (XXVI): Improvement of the status of women in the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa

32. This resolution urged ECA to redouble efforts in order to attain the 35 per cent target for women representation in the secretariat requested by the General Assembly by 1995 and to ensure the incorporation of women's concerns in all programmes of the Commission. The same resolution requested ECA to explore possibilities of strengthening the women's programmes through allocation of additional staff to the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW), focal point on women's issues, and the MULPOC offices. In line with the resolution, women's issues are reflected in all substantive programmes of ECA and most Divisions have women professionals. In addition, efforts are being made to revive the Task Force on Women in the ECA secretariat, and a high-level advisory body was set up to recommend to the Executive Secretary specific measures which would contribute to improve the status of women in the secretariat. However, more efforts are still needed for the fulfilment of the resolution.

Resolution 716 (XXVI): Implementation an integrated approach to development information (PADIS)

33. A bid to obtain established regular budget posts within the 1992-1993 programme budget was not successful.

34. A project document was prepared by the ECA Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS), for the financing of PADIS Phase IV by UNDP during its Fifth Programming Cycle. UNDP has advised ECA that due to financial constraints, it is unable to assist PADIS during the Fifth Cycle. ECA is making efforts to have UNDP reconsider its position on this.

35. The Executive Secretary of ECA sent a letter urging member States to consider the inclusion of projects on development of information needs for funding from the country programme under the Fifth Regional Programming Cycle with a view to establishing the desirable linkages between national, subregional and regional activities and thereby strengthen the overall impact of PADIS.

36. PADIS has also started contacts with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and a mission is envisaged from UNESCO to PADIS to discuss further collaboration.

37. In order to diversify donors to PADIS, project documents have been prepared and submitted to bilateral and multilateral donors. The European Economic Community and UNESCO have also been approached.

Resolution 719 (XXVI): Contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development

38. Resolution 719 (XXVI) invited African Governments and the international community to pledge generously to the Trust Fund and urged those countries and institutions concerned to pay their arrears.

39. The secretariat has sent several communications to the highest authorities in several countries requesting them to ensure their obligations to the Fund were met.

40. During the last Pledging Conference, Angola had pledged for the first time and Namibia had indicated that it would communicate the specific amount of its first pledge in due course.

41. It should be noted that recently the following countries have made partial payments on their arrears: Burkina Faso ($US 19,000), Cameroon ($US 53,408), Gabon (CFAF 1,000,000) and Malawi ($US 4,500).

42. It would be appreciated if African countries and institutions fulfil their obligations under UNTFAD as demonstration of their active commitment to self-reliance.